

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A surgical apparatus, comprising:
a surgical instrument including a housing and a cannula, the cannula attached at a proximal end to the housing and defining at a distal end thereof an opening and the housing containing a drive interface; and
a surgical tool including a shaft and a tip, the tip located in the opening and including at least one conducting portion and a non-conducting edge, the shaft contained within the cannula and the shaft mechanically and electrically coupled at a distal end to the tip, and at a proximal end, to the drive interface and an electrical interface, and the drive interface producing a surgical motion of the tip, and the electrical interface producing a cauterizing action at the at least one conducting portion of the tip.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) The surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first electrical member includes a switch, located on the housing.

4. (Previously Amended) The surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the surgical instrument further comprises:

an interconnector including the first electrical member and the interconnector located between the housing and the cannula for coupling the housing and the cannula.

5 and 6 (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Amended) The surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tip includes at least one non-conducting portion, and wherein the shaft is electrically coupled to the at least one conducting portion.

8. (Original) The surgical apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one conducting portion defines at least one exposed convex tip surface and the non-conducting portion defines at least one concave tip surface.

9. (Original) The surgical apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one conducting portion defines at least one exposed concave tip surface and the non-conducting portion defines at least one convex tip surface.

10. (Original) The surgical apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one non-conducting portion defines a first exposed surface of the tip, and the at least one conducting portion extends from at least one location internal to the tip through the at least one non-conducting portion to define a second exposed surface of the tip. — —

11-12 (Withdrawn)

13. (Original) The surgical apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least one conducting portion extends at an angle to a longitudinal axis of the tip to define at least one disk.

14-17 (Withdrawn).

18. (Original) The surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein a substantial portion of a surface of the shaft is conductive, thus forming an electrical coupling between the electrical interface and the tip.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A cutting and cauterizing device for connection to a surgical instrument, the surgical instrument including a drive interface and a first interconnector, the cutting and cauterizing device comprising:
C₂ a cannula defining at a distal end thereof an opening;

© 2 a second interconnector, suitable for switchably coupling to a power supply, the second interconnector located at the proximal end of the cannula and shaped to couple to the first interconnector; and

a surgical tool including a shaft and a tip, the tip located in the opening and including at least one conducting portion and a non-conducting edge, the shaft contained within the cannula, the shaft coupled at a distal end to the tip and at a proximal end mechanically coupled to the drive interface to permit a surgical motion of the tip, and the shaft electrically coupled to the second interconnector to permit a cauterizing action at the at least one conducting portion of the tip.

21-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Amended) The cutting and cauterizing device of claim 20, wherein the tip includes at least one non-conducting portion, and wherein the shaft is electrically coupled to the at least one conducting portion.

25. (Original) The cutting and cauterizing device of claim 24, wherein the at least one conducting portion defines at least one exposed convex tip surface and the non-conducting portion defines at least one concave tip surface.

26. (Original) The cutting and cauterizing device of claim 24, wherein the at least one conducting portion defines at least one exposed concave tip surface and the non-conducting portion defines at least one convex tip surface.

27. (Original) The cutting and cauterizing device of claim 24, wherein the at least one non-conducting portion defines a first exposed surface of the tip, and the at least one conducting portion extends from at least one location internal to the tip through the at least one non-conducting portion to define a second exposed surface of the tip.

28-34 (Withdrawn)

35. (Original) The cutting and cauterizing device of claim 1, wherein a substantial portion of a surface of the shaft is conductive, thus forming an electrical coupling between the electrical interface and the tip.

36 (Cancelled)

37. (Original) A method of performing a surgical procedure, comprising using the surgical apparatus of claim 1 in the course of performing the surgical procedure.

38. (Original) A method of performing a surgical procedure, comprising using the cutting and cauterizing device of claim 20 in the course of performing the surgical procedure.

39. (Previously Added) The surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one conducting portion is located on the tip in a position allowing cauterization of tissue, that has been operated on by surgical motion of the tip, without moving the instrument after operating on the tissue with the surgical motion of the tip.

40. (Previously Added) The surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one conducting portion is located on the tip in a position allowing cauterization of tissue substantially immediately after the tissue has been operated on by surgical motion of the tip.

41. (Previously Added) The surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tip comprises a surface including:
the at least one conducting portion, and
a cutting edge.

42. (Previously Added) The surgical apparatus of claim 20, wherein the at least one conducting portion is located on the tip in a position allowing cauterization of tissue, that has

been operated on by surgical motion of the tip, without moving the instrument after operating on the tissue with the surgical motion of the tip.

43. (Previously Added) The surgical apparatus of claim 20, wherein the at least one conducting portion is located on the tip in a position allowing cauterization of tissue substantially immediately after the tissue has been operated on by surgical motion of the tip.

44. (Previously Added) The surgical apparatus of claim 20, wherein the tip comprises a surface including:
the at least one conducting portion, and
a cutting edge.

45. (Currently amended) A method of performing surgery, the method comprising:
providing an instrument, including a distal portion for operating on tissue, the distal portion including a conducting portion and a non-conducting edge;
producing a surgical motion of the ~~distal portion~~ conducting portion and the non-conducting edge, thereby surgically operating on tissue with the non-conducting edge;
delivering electric energy to at least ~~a part of the distal~~ the conducting portion; and
applying at least the ~~part of the distal~~ conducting portion to the surgically operated tissue to produce a cauterizing action using the delivered electric energy.

46. (Previously Added) The method of claim 45 wherein the cauterizing action at the surgically operated tissue is produced without moving the instrument after surgically operating on the tissue.

47. (Previously Added) The method of claim 45 wherein the cauterizing action at the surgically operated tissue is produced substantially immediately after surgically operating on the tissue.

48 (Cancelled)

Please add claims 49-51 as follows:

49. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein all mechanical cutting edges on the tip are non-conducting.

CH 50. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tip is substantially non-conductive and includes a plurality of conducting portions.

51. (New) The surgical apparatus of claim 50, wherein the tip further comprises a plurality of non-conducting edges and the plurality of conducting portions are configured as line segments disposed between the plurality of non-conducting edges.
